

Brussels; September 16, 2009

## **“Culture for everyone: the new Dexia commitment to patronage”**

Pierre Mariani, the managing director of Dexia presented on 16 September 2009 the new cultural patronage programme of the Group, *Culture for everyone*.

The goal of this initiative is to open up to the public the artistic heritage built up over the years by Dexia particularly in Belgium, Italy and Luxembourg. It also aims at promoting a whole series of programs and initiatives that make art accessible to the greatest number of people.

Opening up the Dexia collection of 19th and 20th century Belgian art in Belgium is the first stage in this programme and will offer wide access to the public.

*Culture for everyone* will then be implemented in all the sites of the Group and all the employees will be closely associated with it.

"Rationalised, strengthened and focused on culture and solidarity, the new patronage policy of the Dexia Group is also more open," declared Pierre Mariani. "Having benefited from the unfailing loyalty of our shareholders and our clients, we decided we would like to share this marvellous heritage - our collections - with as many people as possible".

### **An exceptional artistic heritage**

**In Belgium** Dexia owns the most important private collection of Belgian art dating from the 14th century to the present day and including numerous works by major artists from Ensor to Delvoeye, Khnopff and many, many more.

The collection includes not only paintings but also important tapestries, old books, artefacts and sculptures. The collection is housed in several sites owned by the bank and a part of the collection of 4,500 works of art is split up between the different head offices of the bank.

#### ***Culture for everyone in Belgium***

The Gallery where the most representative pieces of 19th and 20th century Belgian art are exhibited and which is located in the head office of Dexia Bank Belgium in Brussels, will be open to the public on 19 and 20 September. Thereafter, the Gallery will be accessible every third Saturday of the month.

A new brochure illustrating the Gallery has been published for this occasion and it is possible to visit a 'virtual Galerie' on the web via [www.dexia-artgallery.be/index\\_fr.htm](http://www.dexia-artgallery.be/index_fr.htm).

#### ***Practical Details***

What?	Free guided tour of the Collection of 19th and 20th century Belgian art
Where?	Boulevard Pachéco 44, 1000 Brussels
When?	Saturday 19 and Sunday 20 September from 10:00 a.m. to 16:30 p.m. Every third Saturday of the month
How?	Registration via the site <a href="http://www.dexia.be">www.dexia.be</a>

**In Luxembourg** the head office of Dexia is located in the "Parc Heintz" and the "Jardins de l'Indépendance" that house the exceptional works of national and international sculptures that form part of the permanent collection of Dexia BIL's sculptures : "High Wind" by Lynn Chadwick, "Taichi Single Whip" by Ju Ming, "La Balance" by Bertrand Ney, "Sphère" by Marta Pan, "Argus" by Olivier Strebelle and "Cambrages" by Lucien Wercollier, to name but a few.

The head office of the Bank is also home to a big exhibition space, the "Galerie l'Indépendance", that houses two big exhibitions of works by Luxembourg artists each year. It is also the location of more unusual projects such as "Kënschtler fir Hëllef Doheem" (Artists who support a home help association). This exhibition will open its doors on 16 September 2009.

### ***Culture for everyone in Luxembourg***

Dexia is federated to the European Heritage Days 2009 and will be organising guided tours of the open air sculpture collection and the exhibition of the Galerie l'Indépendance for all those interested on Saturday 19 and Sunday 20 September 2009.

### ***Practical Details***

What?	Free guided tours in the Parc Heintz, the Jardins de l'Indépendance and the Galerie l'Indépendance
Where?	Rendezvous at the entrance of the head office of Dexia BIL at 69, route d'Esch in Luxembourg
When?	Guided tours start (on both days) : Morning: 10:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 12:30 a.m. Afternoon: 14:30 p.m., 15:30 p.m., 16:30 p.m. and 17:30 p.m.
How?	No advanced registration required Soft drinks served on site
Moreover	Throughout the year: Dexia BIL will be offering guided tours to group of at least 6 people. Reservations on +352 4590-2470

**In Italy** Dexia has put together a prestigious collection of art in the tradition of Italian banking, exhibited in the premises and offices of the bank. A large part of the works are accessible to the public once a year during the Italian "Invito a Palazzo".

### ***Culture for everyone in Italy***

On Saturday 3 October, Dexia Crediop that has historically been receptive to the concept of cultural patronage and artistic promotion in Italy, will be taking part in the 8th "Invito a Palazzo", a rendezvous organised in collaboration with the Italian Banking Association during which the Italian 'Bank Palaces' are opened to the public as well as the art collections housed in them.

On the occasion of its 90th anniversary, Dexia Crediop is organising the "Correspondances" exhibition in which the works of ten contemporary artists are presented alongside a selection of ancient art such as "Venus" by Veronese, the "Tibre" by Van Wittel or the figures of Sironi.

Employees of the Bank will also be able to see this collection of works of art on Friday 2 October and the clients of the bank will be able to see it on Wednesday 14 October on the occasion of the 10th 'Financial Gathering of Local Authorities'.

### **Practical Details**

What?	Free guided tour of the "Correspondances" exhibition on the occasion of the "Invito a Palazzo" - ABI
Where?	Palais Dexia Crediop, Via Venti Settembre no. 30, Rome
When?	Friday 2 October (from 15:00 p.m. to 18:00 p.m.) for employees Saturday 3 October (from 10:00 p.m. to 19:00 p.m.) for the public
How?	Reservations: + 39.06.4771.4062 + 39.06.4771.4640
What?	Guided tour of the "Correspondances" exhibition for clients on the occasion of the 10th 'Financial Gathering of Local Authorities'
Where?	Palais Dexia Crediop, Via Venti Settembre no. 30, Rome
When?	Wednesday 14 October at 19:30 p.m.
How?	Reservations: + 39.06.4771.4062 + 39.06.4771.4640

### **Culture for everyone in the heart of the company**

Apart from the 'everyday' decorations installed in a number of working areas of the bank that include works from the different Collections, Dexia is also organising guided tours of the art galleries for the employees of the Group.

The same applies to the temporary exhibitions organised within the company.

### **Culture for everyone in Museums**

Dexia has adopted a voluntary policy towards loaning out works of art in collaboration with museums and/or temporary international exhibitions. In 2009, 25 major works - Ensor, Delvaux, Fritz Van den Berghe - are exhibited for instance in different Belgian or foreign museums: the MoMa in New-York, Van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam or the Musée d'Orsay in Paris.

#### About Dexia

*Dexia is a European bank, with about 35,500 members of staff and a core shareholders' equity of EUR 18.0 billion as of June 30, 2009. Dexia Group focuses on Public and Wholesale Banking, providing local public finance actors with comprehensive banking and financial solutions, and on Retail and Commercial Banking in Europe (mainly Belgium, Luxembourg and Turkey). Main activities encompass retail, commercial and private banking, but also insurance, asset management and investor services activities.*

For more information: [www.dexia.com](http://www.dexia.com)

Press Office +32 2 213 50 81

Dexia SA  
Place Rogier 11, B-1210 Brussels